

THE BASSANO MAIL

THE BASSANO MAIL, THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 1934

R. A. TRAVIS
Insurance of All Kinds
Loans and Collections

VOLUME 23, No. 35

Curling Trophy Stays Here Another Year

Thirteen years of campaigning in the curling wars of Alberta have given a varied experience and locale to the Macdonald Challenge Trophy, but nowhere else has it spent a longer sojourn than in Bassano.

Up and down, over and across southern Alberta, the war-scarred cup has travelled since 1921 when it was presented by W. C. Macdonald Brier Inc. for challenge play between the curling clubs of this province. It was captured, held, defended, and lost by Victoria Club of Calgary, Drumheller, Craigmyle, Carbon, Trochu, Hanna, Delta, Calgary Curling Club, Acme, and a score more curling clubs.

Never long in one place, the big silver trophy, symbol of skill w' bosom an' stane, travelled with the victors from club to club until it came to Bassano in November, 1931. And here it has remained.

Fifteen times in the past three curling seasons have Wm. McLawns and E. P. Currie, Bassano skips, been called on to defend the cup against covetous challengers, and fifteen times the Bassano curlers have won. Twice the skillful shot-makers of the Glencoe Club were turned back, and two victories were also scored over Drumheller, Brooks and Gleichen, Strathmore, North Hill, Brant, Delta, Youngstown, Medicine Hat, and High River curlers also failed in their attempts to lift the cup.

In all these contests McLawns has not lost a single game, and Currie dropped only four. In the sixteen matches, which includes the first when Bassano took the cup from Strathmore, McLawns has scored a total of 282 points, with 167 against him. Currie's record is 258 points, with 143 against him.

McLawns' success in the recent Calgary bonspiel, and Currie's splendid record in Calgary and Banff 'spels of former years mark these two skips as curlers of high calibre and discounts the theory that their success in Macdonald cup games is due to any peculiar condition of the Bassano ice.

The 1933-34 season was an unfavorable one for curling. Deep snow and impassable roads in December followed by mild periods in January and February when the ice was unfit for play prevented a number of clubs from coming to Bassano to make a bid for the Macdonald cup. The only cup match of the season was played when Medicine Hat curlers came up from the gas city and waited overnight for favorable weather conditions, only to finish the game on wet ice.

The same Bassano rinks have played in all these cup games. McLawns' third man is Dr. W. F. Keith, A. Simpson second, and A. P. Pierson lead. Currie has A. L. Young for third, Dr. A. G. Scott second, and A. McKee lead.

Dr. Scott skipped the last game in the absence of Currie.

TOWN ESTIMATES ARE APPROVED

Approval of the town estimates of receipts and expenditures for 1934 was received this week from the Board of Public Utility Commissioners, Edmonton.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. G. Stroupe, Chancellor, on March 21 at the Bassano Hospital.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Lapp, Rosemary, on March 21 at the local hospital.

J. Tetz, of Scandia, is a patient in the Bassano Hospital following an operation for appendicitis today.

ROSEMARY NEWS

ROSEMARY, March 21—Ralph Edwards of Patricia and Dick Osborne of Hutton called on Wm. Tautfest last week.

Mrs. Haines' sister, Mrs. Winsel, left Wednesday morning for her home in Medicine Hat after a week's visit here.

Scotty Florence was in the colony last Thursday.

Mrs. Wm. Tautfest spent Monday in Bassano.

A number of Rosemary people attended the dance in Bassano last Friday night.

Mrs. D. MacLeod, Mrs. Haines, and Mrs. Winsel called on Mrs. Jones Thursday.

Mrs. J. Schmidt passed thru Rosemary last Saturday.

J. Sparks of Gem, called at the Jones home on Saturday.

Mrs. Reid spent the week-end in Calgary.

Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Angell of Bas-

zano called on Mr. and Mrs. Jones last Thursday.

Mrs. D. MacLeod, Audley and Dorothy left by motor on Wednesday for Medicine Hat.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Ankrum and Lois called on Mr. and Mrs. Verne Cummings and family Friday night.

Mr. and Mrs. J. McHale visited Mr. and Mrs. McMahon one night last week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Hall motored to Brooks Saturday.

Mrs. Young and Mrs. Copeland were callers at the Jesse Adams home Sunday.

Mrs. Ankrum and Lois, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wiebe, were Sunday visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Stahali.

Mr. and Mrs. J. McHale motored to Brooks Sunday afternoon.

John Relmer and family have moved to the Morgan farm.

Don't forget the baseball dance in Rosemary Friday, March 23.

C. P. R. MAKES COAL CHUTE ALTERATIONS

A new Diesel oil engine is now being installed by the C. P. R. in their coal chute at Bassano, replacing the old motor that has been in use for many years.

Part of the machinery in the new coal chute, which was built some years ago and never used, is being dismantled for shipment to Maple Creek, Sask.

AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

There is a general opinion among competent observers in touch with agriculture in Alberta that wheat acreage will be reduced to some extent this spring because of financial stringency, disrepair of farm implements, scarcity of horses and machine power, and the menace of grasshopper infestation. In Saskatchewan it is predicted that a reduction of from 15 to 20 per cent below the ten-year average will be made in wheat acreage. The probability is that in Alberta acreage will not be cut to the same extent.

Four Year Old Boy Escapes Strangulation

Little Jimmie, four year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Green, Duchess, had a narrow escape from strangulation last Saturday while playing with a small celluloid whistle which slipped into his larynx. Dr. C. E. Anderson of Brooks was called and performed a temporary trachotomy in order to give him air, and the lad was rushed to the Bassano Hospital where, with Dr. A. G. Scott's assistance, the whistle was removed. The boy made an uneventful recovery.

ORPHEUM THEATRE

FRIDAY and SATURDAY THIS WEEK

"FLAMING GOLD"

With Bill Boyd, Mae Clark, and Pat O'Brien. A thrilling action story by the R. K. O. Studios.

FRIDAY and SATURDAY NEXT WEEK

"MR. SKITCH"

Will Rogers and Zasu Pitts in

Will and Zasu on a tin can tour. And where there's the Will, particularly with Zasu there's an unending laugh from the time they leave the old home in Flat River with the family heiress until they return—in triumph.

Foxes Escape From Ranch At Countess

COUNTESS, March 20—Three foxes from the Countess fox farm of Miss K. B. Walsh made a break for freedom a few days ago. One of the animals made a clean get-away, but the other two were recovered, one returning to the ranch and the other being caught on the farm of H. Ferguson. The foxes escaped thru a pen door that was not properly closed. The lost animal is valued at about \$75.

Miss Walsh, a sister of the stock rancher Harry Walsh, started in the fox raising industry at Countess last month. She has 12 animals on her farm, which is located near the A. Mattick place, just north of Countess.

Mr. and Mrs. Cowan of Makepeace have been spending a week at the Cowan home.

Char. Bethel and Sam Henderson have been visiting with the H. Cowans for the past few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. McIntosh, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Ferguson, Eugene Jones, and Mrs. Sluss enjoyed a game of bridge at the Gamble home Wednesday evening.

When Fred Heidt was cleaning his gun it accidentally discharged. The bullet made a wound in his toe and Dr. Scott was called.

The C. G. I. T. met Friday night and the girls decided to buy a basket ball.

On account of the storm Thursday the community sale at the Cowan place was not very well attended.

Iris Robson of Gem spent the week-end with Miss Jean Gamble.

Mr. and Mrs. Mlerare and family went to Gem last week.

There will be one more dance at Countess before spring work begins. April 6 is the date. The Enchant orchestra will furnish the music. Good eats and a good time; don't forget the date.

Gunner Pierson stopped at the Mattick home Wednesday night. He is on his way to Duchess where he intends to farm this year.

Mr. Benjamin Sr. is visiting with his son, B. D. Benjamin.

Miss Koneta Cowan is visiting in Calgary.

Crowd Celebrates St. Patrick's Day

The birthday anniversary of Ireland's patron saint was celebrated with music, dance, and song last Friday night when a crowd of merry-makers packed the Masonic Community Hall for the annual St. Patrick's whisky drive and dance given by the Ladies' Altar Society of the R. C. Church. It was one of the largest crowds to attend a social function in Bassano this season.

Green was the predominating color in the decorations of the dance hall and the supper room, and the Scarlet Serenaders further perpetuated the glory of Old Erin by playing many sweet melodies of the Green Isle.

Little Joan and Margaret Sloane danced the Irish Jig, and gave the Highland Fling as an encore.

Mrs. J. Hood won the quilt made and donated by Mrs. L. Simonin, and Mr. Howe won the ham.

Miss Dorothy Pragnell and Ray Fisher won first prizes at whisky and the consolation prizes went to Miss Colina Morrison and N. E. Hinton.

Members of the Ladies' Altar Society wish to thank all who helped make the affair a success.

CROWFOOT NEWS

CROWFOOT, March 20—Well, it must be getting close to spring, as ducks and geese are seen going north nearly every day. Rabbits and weasels are turning color, and gophers are running around everywhere.

Quite a number of persons from this vicinity attended the whisky drive and dance in Bassano last Friday evening.

About thirty friends of Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Nail gathered at their home last Saturday evening to give them a farewell party. An enjoyable evening was spent dancing and playing bridge. Mr. and Mrs. Nail are moving out of the district in the near future.

Miss Lois Conner spent the weekend visiting Miss Doris Holtan.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Rodbourne and Sid and Mrs. F. Rodbourne spent Wednesday visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Jones of Cluny.

Several local farmers were busy taking in the sales in the irrigation block last week.

Bill Lees of Peace River, is visiting at the Hefflebower home.

HUSSAR NEWS

Married

HUSSAR, March 20—On Sunday, March 11, Miss Maggie Schaeffer, daughter of Mrs. John Oster, became the bride of Mr. Oscar Faber, of Rosebud, Alberta. The wedding took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Oster, with Rev. Peter Epp officiating, and assisted by Mr. George Kaiser, before a hundred and fifty guests. The ceremony began at 11 a.m. Dinner, lunch, and supper were served by the bride's mother to the guests. The young couple will make their home in Rosebud.

Farewell Party

Neighbors and friends gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Nels Neglior Monday evening for a surprise farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Harper. Mr. and Mrs. Harper and daughter left the following morning for Spokane where they expect to reside. They have rented their land here. The company engaged in dancing and merry-making until lunch was served, and then presented Mr. and Mrs. Harper with a purse as tangible evidence of their esteem and good will.

They also expressed their regret that these farmers were about to leave the community, and hoped that they might prosper in their new surroundings.

Local News Notes

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Poole and son, who have been in Hussar on a week, moved to Calgary on Monday.

Mrs. L. F. Snyder and daughters visited relatives and friends in Acme for a couple of weeks. Mr. Snyder motored over on Monday and brought them home.

A. M. Mahoney spent several days in Hussar, returning on Saturday.

Jason and Margaret Bell, and Graham Montgomery were Calgary visitors on Saturday.

Rev. A. R. Aldridge of Ogden, will hold services here at noon, Sunday March 25.

The W. J. will meet at Mrs. J. V. Elliott's on the fifth Thursday of the month.

The rangers divided their patrol at the last meeting and made Miss Lucille Snellings patrol leader and Miss Margaret Bell second.

The next meeting of the Ladies' Aid will be at the home of Mrs. W. D. Moffat.

The U. F. A. play will be presented here Friday evening, and will be followed by a dance.

L. F. Snyder and Ben Snyder returned on Monday from Calgary.

Jas. Armstrong came down from Calgary on Monday.

GEM NEWS

GEM, March 21—Wm. Pettinger, field man for the Alberta Wheat Pool, addressed a meeting in Gem school Monday night. He gave an interesting talk on the world wheat conference.

Several carloads of sheep left Gem today. They were wintered by Messrs. Selfridge, Hyrve, Pollock and Wallace under the owner-feeder plan.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Cerny, who left here last year for Rocky Mountain House, are expected back in Gem soon. They will make their home with Mr. and Mrs. Cerny Sr.

Mr. Emslie of Brooks, is visiting in Gem with his daughter Mrs. J. Cerny.

The St. Patrick's dance scheduled for last Friday was postponed till Easter Monday, April 2. There will be prizes and special attractions, and an invitation to come is extended to everybody.

Mrs. Archibald left last Friday for Medicine Hat to spend a few days with friends. She returned home today.

The baseball team is putting on a dance Good Friday night, March 30; refreshments, novelty dances, and good music. Proceeds are for the baseball club.

Tennis Club Will

Meet March 27

The Bassano Tennis Club will hold their annual meeting in Wm. McLawns' office Tuesday evening, March 27. Officers for 1934 will be elected at this meeting, and plans made for the coming season of play.

It is expected there will be a discussion of the proposal to form districts and arrange elimination tournaments for the provincial championship tournament. The club secretary has been corresponding with the Alberta Lawn Tennis Association on this matter, and he expects to report interesting developments at the annual meeting. An effort is being made to have Bassano selected as a point for district play-offs.

Everybody interested is invited to attend the tennis meeting Tuesday night, March 27, at 8 p.m.

C. P. R. WILL ACCEPT FOURTH CROP SHARE

Irrigation Farmers Can Operate this Year on Same Basis as 1933—One Fourth Share of Crop Pays for One Year's Principal and Interest

The Department of Natural Resources of the C. P. R. announced a few days ago that they are making land contract holders in the Eastern Irrigation Section the same offer for 1934 as last year with respect to the payment of principal, interest, water rental, and arrears.

Briefly, the agreement covers the following points:

The company will write off a full year's interest and water rental if the farmer pays at least one year's taxes and

(a) Pays the company the equivalent of one instalment of principal and interest or

(b) Enters into a crop-share agreement and delivers a one-fourth share of his crop at the nearest elevator, free of expense.

Double credit will be allowed for all payments made on interest and water rental in arrears.

The double credit applies only to the point where arrears of interest and water rental are extinguished.

FORMER EDITOR WINS PRIZE WITH ONE-ACT PLAY

A. F. Key, former editor of The Drumheller Mail, won third prize with his one-act play, "X. O. X." in the Carnegie play writing competition sponsored by the University of Alberta. Mr. Key was also a prize winner last year.

No entry was considered good enough to deserve a prize in the competition for three-act plays.

The amount of branded beef sold in all Canada during the month of December last was 2,347,595 pounds.

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SINGLE FARE for Round Trip
Going March 31 to April 1
Return leave destination by April 2
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CANADIAN PACIFIC

AUCTION SALES**M. N. FOIEN**

Auctioneer - Duchess
The following auction sales are listed:
March 24, community sale at Duchess, 10 a.m.
March 26 J. J. Nickel and Aton T. Enns, 4 miles south and 2 miles west of Gem Store and P. O.
March 27, J. M. Simpson, 2 miles north and 3 miles east of Duchess.

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Canadian Pacific

The Week at Ottawa

(by Dr. F. W. Gershaw, M.P.)
Ottawa, March 16, 1934

The Bank of Canada Bill has been passed on to the Committee for consideration. Major Powers, the member from Quebec East, got a motion thru which will mean that Sir Herbert Holt, Sir Charles Gordon, and other bank presidents will be asked to come and answer some questions about recent financial transactions. The pulp and paper industry, interlocking directorates, the C.P.R. loan, and the effect of the monetary policy in increasing and decreasing prices, are some of the subjects they will be asked about.

Among the members in Ottawa, the Douglas System is a subject of many conversations. It is a problem that is difficult to get reliable information on and, even among those who have had wide experience on this system, there are some great differences of opinion. Professor McQueen, of the Saskatchewan University, has just completed a series of six articles in the Winnipeg Free Press, condemning the whole thing because he argues that there is really no shortage of purchasing power. He means that production is a continuous process and that although the salary, wages and dividends paid out in any one cycle would not be sufficient to buy back the article, yet ultimately the amount of money set aside for reserves, interest, etc., becomes available for buying. Major Douglas is having some great crowds to hear him at New Zealand and many are hoping he will come to Canada on his way home. His system is directly opposed to the C.C.F. It provides for individual action while the C.C.F. looks to government ownership and government operation of all the great industries of the country.

There was an interesting debate on whether the prime minister should have the privilege of giving titles, thru the king, to Canadian subjects. In 1919 a resolution had passed the House against titles. This had been observed by Sir Robert Borden, Mr. Arthur Meighen, and Mr. King, but last year Mr. Bennett gave out some thirty honors. It was stated that many people these days wanted the title to a job or a home. Also, it was pointed out, that often titles went to the wrong people and, even if they went to people who had rendered conspicuous service, that all who were deserving could not get those honors.

The U.S.A. Senate has refused to approve of the deepening of the St. Lawrence. The prime minister seemed a little disappointed but his supporters are delighted. Those in the far East and West question the wisdom of this work at the present time and any government that undertaken it would meet much opposition. The millions that would go into this project could be spent in other ways, e.g., for better homes, more social legislation, and pensions for deserving ones.

Howe Tells of Argentina

C. D. Howe, of Port Arthur, possibly the leading authority in the world in the building of terminal elevators and the engineer in charge of construction of most of the Wheat Pool terminals, recently returned from the Argentine where he advised the government on the system of grain elevators which is planned there. Mr. Howe gave a public address at Winnipeg recently in the course of which he warned Canadian wheat growers that they must strive for the highest standard of quality if Canadian wheat is to hold its place in the world's market. Argentina is so anxious to improve the demand for its wheat and raise its price in foreign markets that the government has outlawed certain types of wheat which it considers detrimental to the general quality of the product shipped overseas.

THE BASSANO MAIL

Published every Thursday
Wallace J. Smith
editor and publisher

HOLDING A MARKET

The quality of Canada's wheat has always been of a high standard, and this has enabled her to gain the prestige she now holds as an exporter of fine wheat.

Canada's wheat is superior in quality to that grown in Argentina or Australia, and in this respect Canada possesses an advantage over the two great wheat exporters of the southern hemisphere.

But Canada's rivals in the wheat world are not standing idly by while the world market shrinks and sales diminish. Argentina has a plan to raise the quality of her export wheat by declining to purchase from the grower certain inferior strains of wheat which yield heavily but are of poor milling quality. The object is to raise the quality of Argentine wheat and make it more saleable.

If Canada is to hold her wheat markets she must maintain the high quality of her grain. She should, in fact, improve that quality, using the same measures as are now being employed in Argentina.

If wheat production is to be restricted to conform to the capacity of the world to consume, then restriction measures should be applied to the grains of inferior quality. The better grades of wheat would find a more ready market and a better sale than grains of an inferior quality.

There are certain areas in western Canada where the best No. 1 wheat is grown. These districts are not suitable for the growing of other farm products. Other districts grow an inferior grade of wheat and create a surplus of this cereal. These districts are better suited to the production of other grains, and a shift from wheat would not cripple them; it would, in all probability, be to their benefit.

These are the districts to which wheat restriction measures should be applied.

By permitting the sale of only the best grades of wheat a higher standard would be maintained and at the same time production would be kept within the required limits by a simple and fair method.

Outlook is Bleak**Farm Outlook on the Prairies**

For the third successive year the University of Saskatchewan, in Saskatoon, has issued a "Farm Outlook". The authors are Dr. William Allan and Prof. E. C. Hope. The document does not furnish much cheerful reading, the authors relating the story they have to tell in plain, unvarnished language.

It is pointed out that to pay the interest alone on the present farm debt of Saskatchewan would require about four-fifths of all wheat available for sale from the 1933 crop, and for the payment of farm taxes two-fifths of this wheat. In other words, had the Saskatchewan farmers paid the interest on their indebtedness and their taxes it would require one-fifth more money than they received for their entire wheat crop.

Prospects for 1934 are mentioned as unattractive. Shortages of food, feed, and seed, losses of horses, poor machinery, and prospects of the most serious outbreak of grasshoppers ever experienced have to be reckoned with. On top of all this the bill for assistance during the period of adversity also awaits settlement. One bright spot is the fact that reserves of moisture are better than usual. On the whole acreage will be lower than in 1933.

Some considerable space is devoted to the hog situation, the conclusion being that it is unwise for farmers to plan on the belief that periods of profitable and unprofitable production will be ironed out. A great deal depends on the feed situation, and particularly the price of feed. There is a probability that feed prices remain low by the end of the year there will be an over-expansion of hog production.

With regard to cattle, it is mentioned that the Canadian beef cattle industry experienced in 1933 the most distressing year since 1896. During 1933 the average price for good quality steers in Toronto was \$4.35 per cwt. In 1896 the comparative price was \$3.16. The outlook for beef cattle is assumed to be not very bright. Stocks of cattle are greater than domestic requirements. Reduced purchasing power by European consumers is figured at about 25 per cent less than it was during 1924. Increases in employment will increase consumption.

Considerable strength in the price of butter is indicated for the coming year. Last year Canada had a small net export of butter amounting to about 2 million pounds. Feed scarcity will reduce production.

The increase in demand for wool during 1933 reduced unsold stocks materially and brought substantial improvement to the sheep industry. The rise in wool prices was reflected in the lamb market. All important

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In order to give the Canadian public the benefit of the lower duties on Gin made in Canada, the well-known firm of W. & A. Gilbey Limited have recently erected their own Gin Distillery at New Toronto where Gilbey's world-famous Gins are now being distilled in accordance with the formula used by them for nearly 100 years.

Gilbey's Gins, MADE BY GILBEY'S THEMSELVES IN CANADA, are identical in purity, quality, flavor and strength with those hitherto imported from their London Distillery.

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sheep countries reported a decline in sheep population in 1933. Annual production of wool will likely decline for a few more years and the product should bring higher prices as a result.

Regarding poultry a decrease of eight per cent in the number of hens and chickens in Canada is recorded. Prices of eggs should be higher in 1934 than in 1933.

Work horse situation would indicate that Saskatchewan will have only just enough power available to farm its present acreage. Horse scarcity is indicated between 1935 and 1939.

The authors of this outlook believe that the general commodity price level will likely take a gradual rise over a period of from two to four years to a point midway between 1933 and 1939.

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THE FEDUMAN SPHINX

By
Ellis Parker Butler

ILLUSTRATIONS BY F.E. WATSON

THIRTEENTH INSTALMENT
Norbert told the doctor that George the chauffeur was drunk and could not come to be questioned. Norbert also said Maggie the cook had probably got whisky from George. The doctor had told her it was very dangerous for her to drink, and said she would probably drop dead if she took much whisky.

When Norbert had gone Brennan lighted a cigarette.

"It's a queer bunch, altogether Judd," he said, "but you'd be amazed how many queer bunches there are in this world! If you mixed around as I do, I see them at their worst, usually, when they are keyed up by some catastrophe and their eccentricities stick out strong. I think my next job is to talk to this man Dart, our undertaker friend. He may not yield much, but we'll get another angle on John Drane. I have a notion Dart must have known Drane was a woman."

"Pshaw, now!" Simon Judd exclaimed, chuckling. "You don't mean it, do you Dick? Why, the old rascal! A hairy boy like him, 70 years old if he's a day, hangin' around this old lady like he was tryin' to be her husband!"

Brennan snapped his fingers.

"There's an idea!" he said. "There's a lead worth following! If this man Dart discovered that Drane was a woman he might very well try to blackmail her into marrying him. John Drane was a very rich person, Judd. We may have the reason for the murder there. Dart trying to force Drane to marry him to avert exposure."

"Nope!" said Simon Judd. "Nothin' like that, Richard."

"But why not, I'd like to know?" Brennan demanded, rather amused at the fat man's decided tone.



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"Why, black my cats, Dick!" said Simon Judd. "He couldn't be wantin' to marry her when he was married to her already, could he?"

"How do you make that out?" Brennan wanted to know.

Simon Judd chuckled his heavy chuckle again.

"I just sort of suspicion, it, Richard," he said. "Seems so to me, as you may say. A feller don't always have to have reasons, does he?"

"In my profession he does," said Brennan coldly.

"Well, then," said Simon Judd, "how about him comin' to play cards and stayin' over night quite frequent, Richard? If I was tryin' to figger this out I'd sort of say John Drane was a woman and she didn't want it known. If she didn't want it known she wouldn't be havin' a feller stay over night much, especial if he didn't need to, seein' as the feller lived right here in town. And if she did let a feller stay over night it'd sort of show they was married. If he was tryin' to bulldoze her into marryin' him she wouldn't want him around, would she?"

"You may be right," Brennan said thoughtfully. "Ard does your mind tell how long they had been married?"

"Oh, pshaw, now, Richard," Simon Judd laughed. "You don't want I should have a head on me that could tell you the day and date, do you?"

But Brennan was rubbing his chin, considering this new idea.

He did not tell Simon Judd what he was thinking, but it was that if William Dart was indeed John Drane's wife the last will and testament made by John Drane might be of great importance in solving the mystery, such as it was, of the murder. If Drane had made a will leaving everything to Amy, as Amy said Drane had told her he would, William Dart would have been foolish indeed to kill Drane, but if the latest will left a large sum to Dart and Dart feared the making of a new will this might be a reason for the murder of Drane by Dart. Coupled with the gift of the undertaker from the house on the night of the murder this might all mean something.

"You're wrong, Richard," Simon Judd said, interrupting the detective's thoughts.

"You're thinkin' maybe this undertaker feller murdered John Drane, so-called."

"How do you know what I was thinking?"

"Because, black my cats! I was thinkin' the same thin', Richard," Simon Judd explained. "But it ain't so. I don't take no stock in that notion. That little old shrimp wouldn't murder nobody. In the first place he ain't got the gall to do it, and in the second place I ain't never heard of an undertaker murdern' anybody. Did you ever?"

"No," Brennan agreed. "I don't remember of a single case where an undertaker did a murder."

"Sort of unprofessional, I guess," Simon Judd said. "Sort of like buildin' up trade in an unethical way. It ain't done, as the feller says. Are you goin' to telephone him to come here, or are we goin' to his undertakin' shop?"

"I think he'll be coming here," Brennan said. "Dr. Blessington has probably asked him to take care of the funeral."

"You'd better telephone," Simon Judd advised. "That Dart feller ain't comin' here to take charge of no funeral."

"Why not?"

"Because he don't want to be worried with it," Simon Judd explained.

"He don't want a funeral on his mind whilst he's got to think what he's going to do and say about being married to John Drane. He's got a lot of questions in his mind right now. He's got to decide whether he's goin' to admit he knew John Drane was a woman or not; he's got to decide whether he's goin' to admit he's John Drane's husband or not; he's got to decide when to say they were married, and why he never told. He's a busy man right now, Richard, you bet your boofus! And he don't want to take no time off to have to think of no funeral preparations."

"I'll call him up and tell him to come here," Brennan said, and he went into the hall and did go. "He will be here immediately," the detective said, when he returned to Simon Judd. "You meet him and keep him down here; I'm going up and see if the officers have found anything new."

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BEANS, white or brown	special, 6 lbs. for 25c
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she had her wish."

"She was a terrible woman, Sime," the little undertaker said. "I don't know that there ever was another such woman except where you read about them in books. Sime, I wish you were on my side in this business. I wish I had you or somebody to be a friend to me right now. I don't know anybody in this town or anybody I'm alone. I'm the most friendless man in the world. She wouldn't let me know anybody she was jealous of and afraid I'm all alone, Sime, and I'm scared I can't think right; my head don't seem to work right today."

"What have you got to be afraid of?" Simon Judd asked. "What have you done to be afraid of, Abner?"

"Nothing! Nothing!" the little man said tremulously. "As God is my witness, Sime, I never did othing but keep my mouth shut. They can't hang me for that, can they? But thirty two years of keeping my mouth shut! What do you think I ought to do, Sime?"

(continued next week)

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